

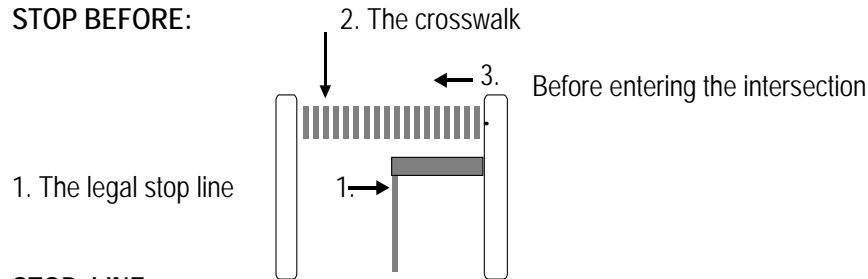


FACT SHEET

Module 3 Traffic Control Devices and Laws Where to Stop at Intersections

Montana's traffic laws and safe driving practices are the "Rules of the Road" that allow the safe and orderly movement of vehicles and pedestrians. They affect many driving activities, such as stopping, driving speed, yielding the right of way, passing other vehicles, and parking.

STOP BEFORE:



STOP LINE

STOP SIGNS AND YIELD SIGNS.

Every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop:

- (a) at a clearly marked stop line, or
- (b) before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or at the point nearest the intersecting highway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting highway before entering it.

Crosswalk

"Crosswalk" means

- (a) That part of a highway at an intersection included within the connections of the lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway measured from the curbs or in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the traversable highway; and in the absence of a sidewalk on one side of the highway, that part of a highway included within the extension of the lateral lines of the existing sidewalk at right angles to the centerline.
- (b) Any portion of a highway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

Curb line

If there are no identifying pavement markings, and the sign or traffic control device says stop, the stop must be made with the front bumper (car, truck, etc.) or front wheel (bike, motorcycle, etc.) behind an imaginary line called a curb line, which stretches from curb to curb closest to the driver. If there are no curbs present, then it must be imagined where they would be, and the stop completed at that imaginary curb line. **Remember!** Your vehicle must not slow or impede the flow of traffic. When backing up it is generally into or out of a driveway or alley. Therefore, the **rear** stops of your car will be at the crosswalk (usually unmarked but determined by the sidewalk or at the curb line). Sometimes a driver will be leaving a driveway, alley, or building area such as a gas station or drive-in. It is required that the driver stop just as if there were a stop sign. The stop is made behind the sidewalk, and yielding the right-of-way to all persons approaching from either side on the sidewalk and to all approaching traffic is required. When the way is clear, the driver may turn left or right, unless pavement markings or signs prohibit such a maneuver. If there is a painted **crosswalk**, the vehicle must stop with the front bumper (car, truck, etc.) or front wheels (bike, motorcycle, etc.) **behind** the nearest crosswalk line. Sometimes there is a crosswalk and a stop line. If there are both, the stop line must be obeyed first. On streets that have sidewalks but no painted crosswalks, remember that the crosswalks are still considered to be there. Handle these situations just as if the crosswalk were painted.